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*A Handbook of Greek Constitutional History.* By A. H. J. GREENIDGE, M. A. Pp. 276. Price, \$1.25. London and New York: The Macmillan Co., 1896.

The student of Greek history is fortunate in the number of serviceable books at his disposal. Greece has held such sway over the minds of scholars, that almost every phase of Greek history has been eagerly investigated. A few years ago, however, the discovery of the "Constitution of Athens" threw light upon many subjects and caused some questions to be reopened. The result was a mass of writing which is usable only by the specialist. In the light of this new material, Mr. Greenidge has now put into scholarly form and moderate compass the more important facts about Greek constitutional history. His aim is "to pay more attention to the working than to the mere structure of constitutions."

After defining the terms he must use, he traces the early development of the constitutions and certain general tendencies exemplified in colonization and the growth of international law among the Greeks. Then follow chapters on the different constitutions, classed as oligarchies, mixed constitutions, and democracies. Of these, the last is the longest, and the most interesting, as it is devoted chiefly to Athens. The volume ends with short chapters on federal governments, and "Hellenism and the fate of the Greek constitutions."

The work is done conscientiously and will take rank as the most useful outline yet written. The author has avoided two pitfalls into which many predecessors have fallen; we refer to the exaggerated estimate of the importance of individuals in Greek history, and to the tendency to treat the utterances of philosophers as if their theorizing represented the actual working of constitutions. We have but one criticism to make; the matter is so closely packed that the book is in parts difficult to read. But even when most difficult to read, it repays careful study.

The volume is supplied with a select bibliography—in which we think Holm's history should be mentioned—with indices of subjects, Greek words, and Greek authorities, and with a political map of Greece about 430 B. C.

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*American History told by Contemporaries.* Volume I, *Era of Colonization, 1492-1689.* Edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Pp. xviii, 606. Price, \$2.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1897.

This work essays no easy task. It attempts: "First, to put within convenient reach of schools, libraries and scholars authoritative texts

of rare or quaint writings in American history, contemporary with the events which they describe; and, in the second place, to give, in a succession of scenes, a notion of the movement and connection of the history of America, so that from this work by itself may be had an impression of the forces which have shaped our history, and the problems upon which they have worked." This scheme is so pretentious, the difficulties in the way of its successful accomplishment are so obvious that we open the book with no great confidence. It may prove spicy and interesting, but will it be fair and true? These scraps of history may give many a pleasing sidelight, but must not the price be a loss of all right perspective? Yet in spite of obstacles and in the face of such apprehensions this work attains a distinct and most welcome success.

In such a compilation of the sources of history the cardinal virtues must be accuracy, clearness and balance. The first of these is attained by the utmost care in selecting the earliest or most authoritative text available, and by the painstaking collation of the extract with the original. For the clear and logical organization of material Professor Hart possesses talent of no ordinary degree. At his touch materials the most diverse seem of their own accord to fall into order. At times, to be sure, the order seems a bit too formal, the classification a little too clean-cut. Is mention made of "the offices of sources of history,"—they are straightway grouped as three, and properly ticketed. History, too, has "its threefold office;" libraries, their "triple object." In each of these instances the generalization is suggestive, but its very readiness and simplicity arouses a slight protest against such persistent "trinitarianism." Certainly not less essential than accuracy of quotation and clearness of presentation, is balance or sense of proportion. Historical study must not merely be grounded upon contemporary evidence; that evidence must be weighed, appraised at its true value, seen in its proper perspective. History is perverted none the less by a one-sided contemporary view than by an ill-grounded modern conclusion. How carefully balance is preserved in this work will be discussed later.

Part I is devoted to a "Practical Introduction" for teachers, libraries, and students. It discusses the sources of history, and their educative value, and classifies the sources upon the general topic of colonization, giving a brief descriptive bibliography of the material most available to students. Under "Use of Sources" is found a vast deal of suggestion as to the search for sources, and their use by "teachers, pupils, students and investigators, readers and librarians." The advice and cautions given are excellent and the brief critical list of secondary authorities well chosen and for the

most part fair-minded. To this list there is already to be added John Fiske's "Old Virginia and Her Neighbors." Part II is concerned with "Discovery and Early Voyages." In Part III "Conditions of Colonization" are presented in a series of extracts showing the causes of colonization, the regulations and restrictions under which it was carried on and the diverse character of the emigrants. Parts IV, V, and VI, are devoted to the Southern Colonies, New England and the Middle Colonies, respectively. The extracts vary in length from a dozen lines to ten pages, the average length being about four pages. For ease of reference the extracts are numbered consecutively; the dates of the events described, of the writing and of the translation of each document are given together with the briefest of notes in regard to the writer, followed by a few bibliographical references, for the most part to Winsor's "Narrative and Critical History" and to the "Guide to the Study of American History," recently edited by Professors Channing and Hart. At the end of each selection is clear reference by page, volume and edition to the source from which it has been taken. The minuteness with which the material is indexed adds greatly to the serviceableness of the volume.

The worker in mosaic is far more at the mercy of intractable materials than is the painter or even the sculptor. How successfully the editor has accomplished the more difficult part of the task here attempted, viz., "to give in a succession of scenes a notion of the movement and connection of the history of America," can be appreciated only after studying the sequence of extracts under a given topic. For example, under "Norse and Spanish Discoveries" is found first a selection from the Sagas which narrate the Norse discovery of Greenland and of Wineland the Good. Next from the Journal of Columbus as abridged by Las Casas, comes the account of those eventful days from the tenth to the fourteenth of October, 1492. This is fittingly followed by Eden's translation from the Latin into Black-letter English of the quaintest and crabbedest sort of the famous Bull by which Pope Alexander VI., "of oure owne mere liberalitie and certeyne science, and by the fulnesse of apostolycall power" did divide the new world between the Spaniards and the Portuguese. The letter of Columbus to Ferdinand and Isabella describing his fourth voyage is of great interest not only as throwing light upon the character of Columbus and his relations to the Spanish Court, but also as evidencing the all-consuming thirst for gold which joined so strangely with missionary zeal in motivating the voyages of discovery. From Martin Waltsee-Müller's "*Cosmographiæ Interductio*" is translated the brief passage in which America is first suggested as a fitting name for "the fourth part of

the world." The pens of Pizarro and of Gomara, the chaplain of Cortes, present the most dramatic episodes in the conquest of Peru and of Mexico. De Soto's expedition from the ocean to the Mississippi, and the first exploration of the Kansas-Nebraska region are described by eye-witnesses, and Miles Philips' account of experiences in Mexico in the middle of the sixteenth century brings this chapter to a fitting close.

Especially successful is the section which deals with the conditions of emigration, although with but a single exception the selections are here made from English writers. The colonization movement is closely integrated with the history of England. The manifold advantages of colonization are set forth forcibly, though perhaps not disinterestedly by Sir George Peckham, the partner in Sir Humphrey Gilbert's ventures. Hostility to Spain as a motive for colonizing is discussed in the spicy pages from Haklyt's "Discourse on Western Planting," while the Separatists' reasons for leaving England and seeking homes in the New World are made clear by Bradford.

Great discrimination and fairness has been shown in so selecting and grouping the extracts as to present diverse points of view. Some one has said that "Boston has ever been the centre of conscious morality." Our New England forefathers never wavered in the belief that they were the salt of the earth. Hence it is salutary for a reader of Puritan descent to have brought to his notice not only the straightforward narratives of the founders of New England, but also Thomas Lechford's acrid "Note of what Things I Misliked in the Country," the account of Mrs. Hutchinson's trial, and a Dutch opinion of the New England character from the pen of Governor Keift—an opinion to be compared with that entertained of the Dutch by the commissioners of the New England Confederation.

To the student and teacher, especially when remote from the few choice historical libraries, this book will prove a great boon. Nor will it prove less satisfactory to the general reader of history. A taste of sources is stimulating; it can hardly fail to create a craving for more. The reader who is here for the first time introduced to the varied and fascinating sources of our colonial history will long to browse in Haklyt and Smith, to follow the fortunes of the fathers of New England in the modest but inspiring records left us by Bradford and Winthrop, to get the Jesuit "Relations" into his own hands, and see what use has been made of them by such an artist as Parkman. Not only will these extracts themselves lead to a truer understanding of our colonial beginnings, but by the display of

these captivating samples the demand for and use of the unabridged originals cannot fail to be greatly stimulated.

The present volume is one of a projected series, intended to cover the broad range of American history from the earliest discoveries to the present time. The later volumes are to be: Vol. II, "Building of the Republic," 1689-1783; Vol. III, "National Expansion," 1783-1844; Vol. IV, "Welding of the Nation, 1845-1897. How will the later volumes read? To what extent is the success of the present one due to the vast variety of its material and its remoteness from our present-day life and habits of thought? If the succeeding volumes maintain the standard here established it will be no disparagement to any of Professor Hart's previous work to say that in this splendidly edited series of sources he has rendered his greatest service to the study of American history.

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*Contemporary American Opinion of the French Revolution.* By CHARLES DOWNES HAZEN. Pp. x, 315. Price, \$2.00. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1897.

At no time in American history have domestic politics been more influenced by foreign happenings than during the period of the French Revolution. Following our own struggle for independence, the movement in France aroused a sympathetic interest which could hardly have been greater had that nation been our next door neighbor instead of being separated from us by the Atlantic Ocean. Was her revolution similar to our own? Were its leaders entitled to American sympathy? If European war should follow, was America bound to aid France? Such were the questions demanding answers from our statesmen, and it was upon lines suggested by these questions that political parties divided. Professor Hazen, in the book before us, undertakes to show by quotations from their writings the attitude of leading contemporary Americans toward French conditions and politics as the revolution passed through its successive stages.

The book is divided into two parts. In the first the author acquaints us with the opinions of our official representatives at Paris, and in the second he introduces the sentiments prevalent among Federalists and Republicans in America. Of our three ministers to France from 1787 to 1797, Monroe seems to have been most hopeful for the future of the French Republic and most prejudiced